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Sen. Allen and Rep. Casperson introduce legislation to remove burdensome fees on service organizations

LANSING – To help service and religious organizations continue assisting individuals in need, Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City, and Rep. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba, today introduced legislation to exempt them from paying sign permit application fees.

“With the current state of our economy, people are relying on non-profit and service organizations more than ever,” Allen said. “These organizations play a valuable role in our communities and we should make sure that more of every dollar goes to assisting the residents they were intended to help.”

Senate Bill 1073 and House Bill 5763 would exempt service clubs and religious organizations from paying permit application fees to Michigan Department of Transportation when applying for a permit to erect a sign on a state highway.

“Groups that serve the public shouldn’t be charged for trying to help others,” said Casperson. “With this change, these organizations that often have limited resources themselves can make their efforts go that much further.”

Under current law, these organizations are already exempt from annual permit renewal fees for signs. The legislation would extend the exemption to the permit application fees as well.

“We are facing difficult economic times,” Allen said. “By exempting service groups such as the American Legion from paying the permit application fee, they will have more money to assist people in their communities.”

SB 1073 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation while HB 5763 was referred to the House Committee on Transportation.

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